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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,689	01/04/2002	Gerd Eisenblatter	87307.00025	7795

30734 7590 05/28/2003

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EXAMINER

SHAKERI, HADI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3723

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

80

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,689

Applicant(s)

EISENBLATTER, GERD

Examiner

Hadi Shakeri

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: "Brief Description of the drawings" should be on page 5 after the sixth full paragraph and the "Detail Description" should be on page 6, line 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "shape mating connection device on an end" in line 2, rendering the claim indefinite. The device formed by a recess and a counterpiece is on both ends.
5. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the end" in lines 9 and 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant may wish to define a first end and a second end.
6. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the long sides" in lines 6 and 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. Claim 1 recites "...faces away from the belt the end of the belt" rendering the claim indefinite.
8. Claim 4 recites the limitation "at least one..." in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Same correction should be made regarding claims 6-8, 10-14, and "the surrounding region" should be changed to, --a surrounding region--.

Art Unit: 3723

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1, 2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Muller, DE 89 04 270 in view of Angell, US Patent No. 149,424.

Muller discloses all the limitations of claim 1 (wherein a length of the hole roughly corresponds to a width of the belt, e.g., section 21), except for disclosing a hole with a wider region on top and a narrow region on the bottom. Angell teaches a fastening means of two ends of a belt in which the hole (c) is configured with a length nearly equal to the width of the head (B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reconfigure the hole (18) of Muller to have a length nearly equal to the width of the head as taught by Angell so that the head passes freely through the hole providing an easier and faster connection.



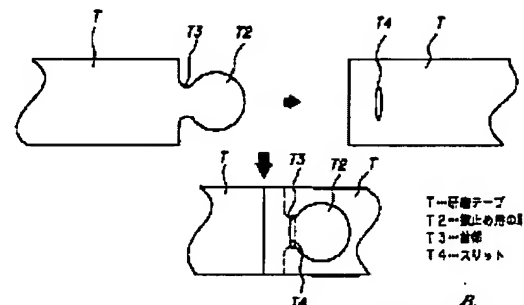
Muller in view of Angell meets the limitations of claim 9, i.e., strap B.

Regarding claim 2, Muller in view of Angell meets all the limitations, except for disclosing a round hole, however changing shape depending on the workpiece and operational parameters, so long as two regions are provided making for an easy connection would be within one of ordinary skill in the art.

Art Unit: 3723

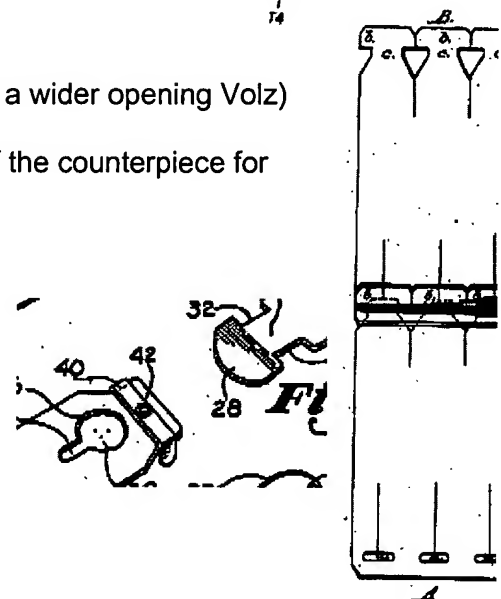
11. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi et al., JP 408 126 962 in view of Ashworth (US 86,123) or Volz (2,646,940).

Takagi et al. discloses all the limitations of claim 1, i.e., an interlocking abrasive belt having an interlocking device, except for disclosing a hole with two regions with a length equal to a width of the belt.



Ashworth and Volz, each teaches an interlocking device having a hole with two regions (either in the form of a slit (Ashworth) or a wider opening (Volz)) designed to have an opening with a length corresponding to a width of the counterpiece for ease of insertion.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to reconfigure the hole (14) of Takagi to have a length nearly equal to the width of the head as taught by Ashworth or Volz, so that the head passes freely through the hole providing an easier and faster connection.



12. Claims 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art (Takagi in view of Ashworth or Volz) and (Muller in view of Angle) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Smith, US Patent No. 2,361,506.

Prior art as applied to claim 1 above meets all the limitations of the above claims except for disclosing a coated stiffened end region. Smith teaches stiffening the end regions of the interconnection device, col. 2, lines 30-44. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to further modify the modified invention of the prior art by coating the ends as taught by Smith for stiffening.

Art Unit: 3723

Conclusion

13. Prior art made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gutschmit, Noble, Doerr, Donahue and McLaren, Jr. are cited to show related inventions.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Hadi Shakeri at (703) 308-6279, FAX (703) 746-3279 for unofficial documents. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Official documents may be faxed to (703) 872-9302, after final to (703) 872-9303.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist at (703) 308-1148.


HADI SHAKERI
PATENT EXAMINER

May 8, 2003